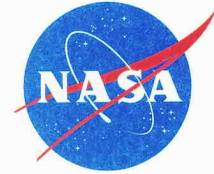


National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Langley Research Center

100 NASA Road  
Hampton, VA 23681-2199



November 1, 2010

Reply to Attn of:

Office of Chief Counsel, Mail Stop 141

TO: Distribution

FROM: Chief Counsel

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at a Reception following  
TEDxNASA, November 4, 2010, Newport News, Virginia

NASA invitees, accompanied by an invited spouse or guest, may attend a reception sponsored by Jacobs Engineering and the National Institute of Aerospace Foundation, following the TEDxNASA event, November 4, 2010, at Newport News, Virginia.

Approximately 100 people are expected to attend this reception. Expected attendees include event speakers, NASA personnel, and individuals from government, academia, and industry. The reception will include light refreshments valued at approximately \$14.00 per person. In accordance with 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(g), and 14 C.F.R. §1207.103, I find that the event meets the definition of a "widely attended gathering." I further find that there is an Agency interest in having NASA employees attend the event, as they will have the opportunity to further agency programs and operations through the exchange of views and information with other attendees.

Additionally, these sponsors may also be providing lunches and refreshments to NASA employees and others who are supporting TEDxNASA. Under 5 C.F.R. §2635.203(b)(1), NASA employees may properly accept refreshments offered as other than part of a meal. Under 5 C.F.R. §2635.204(a), they may also accept unsolicited gifts, such as the lunches, of an aggregate value of less than \$20 per occasion and \$50 per calendar year from any one source.

NASA employees who are in non-career positions for which Executive Order 13490 requires signing an ethics pledge, and NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsor, for instance by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.205(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in these events from their local ethics counselor.

Questions about this determination should be directed to this office at 757-864-3221.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michael N. Madrid".

Michael N. Madrid